

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, and 6-42 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 19, and 40 are independent.

By this amendment, claim 5 has been canceled, claims 18-42 have been added, and claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 15 have been amended.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 2, 2006, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 or PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not initial the copy of the PTO-SB08 form because it incorrectly identified the Document as US-93-19820. Applicants submit herewith a corrected PTO-SB08 for the Examiner to initial.

Drawings

Since no objection has been received, Applicant assumes that the drawings are acceptable and that no further action is necessary. Confirmation thereof in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected to claims 1-17 under 37 CFR §112, second paragraph for being indefinite. Claim 1 is rejected for lack of proper antecedent basis for certain claim

terminology, and claim 15 is said to be unclear. In order to overcome this objection, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 15 to correct the basis for the objection.

Applicants also note that claim 4 is amended to recite the gasket feature near the beginning of the claim to provide proper antecedent basis for the subsequent gasket language therein.

The scope of the claims has not been narrowed by these amendments.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested..

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of the admitted stated art; claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Chang. Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Sloan and Wang. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Pick. Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Aksenov. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Tsutsumi. Claim 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Glucksman. Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a steam jet drum washing machine including "a drum rotatably mounted in the tub for rotation about a generally horizontal axis and adapted so that clothes are put in the drum and the water is supplied into the drum." Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not

disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nakamura and the remaining references utilized in modifying Nakamura.

Applicants respectfully submit that Nakamura is directed to a washing machine wherein the drum rotates about a vertical axis. Therefore, for at least this reason, Nakamura fails to anticipate independent claim 1.

None of the other references relied on by the Examiner were cited to address the deficiency identified with respect to Nakamura. Therefore, any hypothetical combination of Nakamura with the remaining references would fail to teach or suggest all limitation of independent claim 1.

With regard to dependent claims 1-4 and 6-17, Applicants submit that these claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore these claims are allowable based on their dependence from claim 1.

Regarding claim 10 in particular, Applicants are unable to fully respond to the merits of this rejection because the office Action does not identify the "Pick" reference, either in the body of the Office Action, or in the PTO-892, List of References Cited, and Applicants do not find the name "Pick" in any of the art that they have cited in either Information Disclosure statement (IDS).

Applicants note that, because the specific reference has not been identified, this rejection is fundamentally incomplete and any rejection of this claim in the next Office Action cannot be made a final rejection.

Claims 18-42

Claims 18-42 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 18 and 42 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 19 recites a combination of elements in a steam jet drum washing machine including "a casing", "a tub disposed in the casing and adapted so that water is supplied into the tub", "a drum rotatably mounted in the tub and adapted so that clothes are put in the drum and the

water is supplied into the drum”, “a steam generator for heating water to generate steam and supplying the steam into at least one of the tub and the drum, a top wall of the steam generator comprises a first portion extending above a second portion to form a steam storing space to store the generated steam”, and “a water-supply unit that supplies the water into the tub and the steam.”

Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 19 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record. Claims 20-39 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 19, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore these claims are allowable based on their dependence from claim 19.

Independent claim 40 recites a combination of elements in a steam jet drum washing machine including “a casing”, “a tub disposed in the casing and adapted so that water is supplied into the tub”, “a drum rotatably mounted in the tub and adapted so that clothes are put in the drum and the water is supplied into the drum”, “a steam generator for heating water to generate steam and supplying the steam into at least one of the tub and the drum, the steam generator having a steam storage space and water receiving space”, and “a water-supply unit that supplies the water into the tub and the steam generator, the water-supply unit including a steam tube having one end connected to the steam generator and the other end communicated with the inside of at least one of the tub and the drum for supplying the steam into the at least one of the tub and the drum, the one end of the steam tube extending through the water receiving space and into the steam storage space.”

Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 40 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record. Claim 41 depends from independent claim 40, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claim 41 is allowable based on its dependence from claim 40.

Consideration and allowance of claims 18-42 are respectfully requested.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

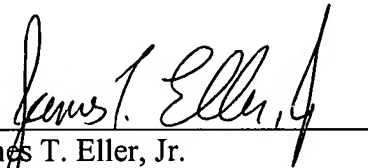
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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